

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:
 - receiving a first transaction request in association with a first certificate issued by a certificate authority, the first certificate having a representation of an issuer name and a subject name;
 - communicating with a status authority to query for current status information on the first certificate; and
 - receiving a second certificate from the status authority indicating the current status of the first certificate, the second certificate having a representation of the issuer name and the subject name; and
 - receiving a third certificate with the first transaction request and the first certificate, the third certificate comprising a record of a response to a status request of the first certificate at a particular time.
2. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the certificate authority comprises the status authority.
3. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the status authority comprises an agent authorized to act on behalf of the certificate authority.

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4. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the transaction request is received from an end entity, and having further computer executable instructions comprising, transmitting information including the second certificate to the end entity.

5. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the information including the second certificate is transmitted to the end entity along with a response to the transaction request.

6. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the information including the second certificate is transmitted to the end entity along with at least one digital signature.

7. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer executable instructions comprising, transmitting the first certificate and the second certificate to a remote party along with a second transaction request.

8-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer executable instructions comprising, transmitting the first

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certificate, the second certificate, and the third certificate to a remote party along with another transaction request.

12. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 11 having further computer executable instructions comprising, receiving information including a fourth certificate from the remote party indicating the current status of at least one of the first, second, and third certificates.

13. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the fourth certificate is communicated with a response to the other transaction.

14. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

receiving a query from a relying party for current status information on a first certificate, the first certificate having a validity period associated therewith and having a representation of an issuer name and a subject name; and

issuing a data structure including information specifying a validity period for a second certificate that is shorter than the validity period for the first certificate and including a the second certificate indicating the current status of the first certificate, the second certificate having a representation of the issuer name and the subject name.

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15. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, having further computer executable instructions comprising transmitting the data structure to the relying party.

16. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the data structure comprises an extension designating the second certificate as being an indication of the current status of the first certificate.

17. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the data structure further comprises policy information.

18. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data structure further includes information regarding evidence submitted to satisfy a policy of the relying party.

19. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the data structure comprises policy-related information that qualifies the second certificate.

20. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the data structure further comprises success or failure information regarding the second certificate.

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21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended): A method for performing electronic commerce, comprising,

receiving, at a certificate authority, a first request provided by an end entity for a certificate;

verifying whether the certificate should be issued, and if so, issuing the certificate;

providing the certificate by the end entity to a relying party;

receiving a second request provided by the relying party at a status authority for status information about the certificate; and

issuing a reissue certificate including the status information in response to the receiving the second request at the status authority for status information about the certificate.

24. (original): The method of claim 23 wherein the certificate authority comprises the status authority.

25. (original): The method of claim 23 wherein the status authority is a designated agent of the certificate authority.

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26-45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended): A method for performing electronic commerce, comprising:

receiving, at a second party, a request from a first party to accept a transaction and a first certificate referencing the transaction;

accepting the transaction at the second party and issuing a receipt to the first party, the receipt including a second certificate as proof of acceptance of the transaction;

sending, from the second party to a third party, the transaction, the first certificate and the second certificate to offer the transaction for sale; and

receiving a receipt at the second party from the third party including a third certificate as proof that the third party purchased the transaction; and

sending, from the third party to a fourth party, the transaction, the first certificate, the second certificate and the third certificate to attempt to resell the transaction.

47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 wherein the fourth party purchases the transaction and issues a receipt including a fourth certificate

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to the third party, in response to receiving the transaction, the first certificate, the second certificate and the third certificate from the third party.

49. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 wherein the first certificate comprises evidence, and wherein the second party evaluates the evidence from the first party.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 49 wherein the evidence includes at least one policy decision made by the first party.

51. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 wherein the first and second certificates comprise evidence, and wherein the third party evaluates the evidence from the first party and the second party.

52. (previously presented): The method of claim 51 wherein the evidence includes at least one policy decision made by at least one of the first or second parties.

53. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 wherein the first, second and third certificates comprise evidence, and wherein the fourth party evaluates the evidence from the first party, the second party and the third party.

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54. (previously presented): The method of claim 53 wherein the evidence includes at least one policy decision made by at least one of the first, second or third parties.

55. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 wherein each party evaluates each certificate provided thereto prior to issuing its respective receipt.

56-68. (canceled)